

11/6  
NOVEMBER 6, 1986

## SIGNING CEREMONY FOR IMMIGRATION BILL

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOU COULD  
ALL BE HERE TODAY. I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU  
HAVE BEEN WITH EVENTS LEADING UP TO  
TUESDAY'S ELECTION, AND I WANT TO  
CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU IN THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE JUST BEEN  
RE-ELECTED.

THIS BILL, THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND  
CONTROL ACT OF 1986, THAT I WILL SIGN IN  
A FEW MINUTES IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE  
REFORM OF OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS SINCE 1952.

IT IS THE PRODUCT OF ONE OF THE  
LONGEST AND MOST DIFFICULT LEGISLATIVE  
UNDERTAKINGS IN THE LAST THREE CONGRESSES.  
FURTHER, IT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF  
A TRULY SUCCESSFUL BIPARTISAN EFFORT.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE ALLIES OF IMMIGRATION REFORM ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAPITOL AND BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WORKED TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH THESE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT REFORMS TO CONTROL ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

---

IN 1981, THIS ADMINISTRATION ASKED THE CONGRESS TO PASS A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE, INCLUDING EMPLOYER SANCTIONS, OTHER MEASURES TO INCREASE ENFORCEMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION LAWS, AND LEGALIZATION. THE ACT PROVIDES THESE THREE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS.

---

DISTANCE HAS NOT DISCOURAGED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES FROM ALL AROUND THE GLOBE. THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SHOULD NOT, THEREFORE, BE SEEN AS A PROBLEM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NEIGHBORS.

---

OUR OBJECTIVE IS ONLY TO ESTABLISH A  
REASONABLE, FAIR, ORDERLY, AND SECURE SYSTEM  
OF IMMIGRATION INTO THIS COUNTRY AND NOT TO  
DISCRIMINATE IN ANY WAY AGAINST PARTICULAR  
NATIONS OR PEOPLE.

---

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE A FEW OF  
THE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHOSE UNFLAGGING  
EFFORTS HAVE MADE THIS LEGISLATION A  
REALITY. } SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON, CONGRESSMAN  
DAN LUNGREN, CHAIRMAN PETER RODINO,  
AND CONGRESSMAN RON MAZZOLI HAVE LONG  
PURSUED AND NOW HAVE ATTAINED THIS LANDMARK  
LEGISLATION. } IMPORTANT ROLES WERE PLAYED BY  
SENATOR STROM THURMOND, SENATOR PAUL SIMON,  
AND CONGRESSMEN HAM FISH, BILL MCCOLLUM,  
CHUCK SCHUMER, AND MANY OTHERS IN BOTH  
HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS AND IN BOTH PARTIES.

---

ADDITIONALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THE EXCELLENT EFFORTS OF MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS TO MAKE THIS BILL SIGNING POSSIBLE TODAY. THE LONG LIST OF THOSE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS HEADED BY ATTORNEYS GENERAL EDWIN MEESE AND WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH, WHO WITH IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER ALAN C. NELSON HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO OUR EFFORTS TO PASS MEANINGFUL IMMIGRATION REFORM.

---

FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS WILL BE THANKFUL FOR OUR EFFORTS TO HUMANELY REGAIN CONTROL OF OUR BORDERS AND THEREBY PRESERVE THE VALUE OF ONE OF THE MOST SACRED POSSESSIONS OF OUR PEOPLE, AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

---

NOW LET ME GET ON WITH THE SIGNING OF THIS MEASURE INTO LAW.

---

# # #